

About the Gynecologic Cancer Information Program

The Gynecologic Cancer Information Program (GCIP) is housed within the California Department of Health Services (DHS), Office of Women's Health (OWH). Its primary role is to increase awareness and education regarding gynecologic cancers. It produces and distributes patient education materials to health care providers to assist them to comply with the 1997 gynecologic cancer statutory mandate. The GCIP also works with interested organizations and individuals to plan awareness campaigns for consumers and continuing education activities for medical care providers. The work of the GCIP is guided by a workgroup composed of experts in gynecologic cancer, health care, health education, and representatives from DHS, professional organizations, voluntary and advocacy organizations.

The GCIP was created by AB 833 (Ortiz) Chapter 754, Statutes of 1997. Effective January 1998, DHS was directed to place priority on providing information to consumers, patients, and healthcare providers regarding women's gynecologic cancers, including signs and symptoms, risk factors, the benefits of early detection through appropriate diagnostic testing and treatment options. The bill requires medical providers to provide this information to their patients (in a standardized summary, in layperson's language understood by the patient) at the time of the patient's annual gynecologic examination. The intent of the law is to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers and to encourage discussion between the patient and her health care provider regarding regular gynecologic cancer screening.

In April 2000, OWH produced a comprehensive gynecologic cancer pamphlet with a standardized summary of patient information on the six types of gynecologic cancers as prescribed in the law. A copy of this pamphlet was mailed to over 7,000 Ob-Gyn, primary care and family planning physicians throughout California. The cancer pamphlet was produced with input from an expert workgroup, focus groups, and reviewed by professional and voluntary cancer organizations. The gynecologic cancer pamphlet was subsequently produced in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Additionally, individual one-page fact sheets were produced with more detailed information on cervical, ovarian, and uterine cancer in the same four languages.



OWH OFFICE OF
WOMEN'S
HEALTH
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

How to Get the Gynecologic Cancer Materials

How to Order Gynecologic Cancer Materials

All gynecologic cancer pamphlets and fact sheets have been assigned publication numbers. Please use the title of the pamphlet or fact sheet and the publication number to order these materials.

| | | • English | • Spanish | • Chinese | • Vietnamese |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Gynecologic Cancers... What Women Need to Know | (Pamphlet) | Pub 306 | Pub 307 | Pub 308 | Pub 309 |
| Cervical Cancer... What Women Need to Know | (Fact sheet) | Pub 60 | Pub 64 | Pub 74 | Pub 88 |
| Ovarian Cancer... What Women Need to Know | (Fact sheet) | Pub 62 | Pub 69 | Pub 75 | Pub 96 |
| Uterine Cancer... What Women Need to Know | (Fact sheet) | Pub 63 | Pub 72 | Pub 77 | Pub 103 |

How to Get Bulk Quantities of the Materials

Bulk quantities of the materials can be shipped to California based medical care providers and organizations, free of charge. The gynecologic cancer pamphlets and fact sheets may be obtained by using a DHS 2031 order form from the DHS Warehouse. Fax your request for a DHS Warehouse order form to (916) 928-1326, and be sure to provide a contact name, agency/organization name and fax number. For DHS Warehouse information, please call (916) 928-9203. OWH suggests ordering a packet of 25 order forms with your first order to facilitate ongoing future requests of the materials. Below is a sample entry for your first DHS Warehouse order:

| Item/Publication Title | Prefix | Number | Suffix | Quantity | Unit |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|------|
| Order Form | DHS | 2031 | | 25 | EA. |
| Gynecologic Cancer Pamphlet/Spanish | Pub | 307 | | 250 | EA. |

The maximum quantity available for each order is 2,500 gynecologic cancer pamphlets and 500 of each of the fact sheets. There are no restrictions on the number of orders that can be placed for the materials.

To order single copies, to reproduce our materials, and to get other gynecologic cancer website resource information, please see other side of this page.

Single Copies

Single copies of the gynecologic cancer pamphlet and fact sheets (in all four languages) are available from the Office of Women's Health (OWH). Fax your request to OWH at (916) 653-3535 or call (916) 653-3330.

How to Reproduce the Materials

The gynecologic cancer pamphlet (all languages) is available on CD-ROM to any organization that wishes to reproduce it. Contact OWH at (916) 653-3330 to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) form which specifies printing restrictions and agreements. Upon receipt of the signed MOU, the OWH will mail a hard copy of the pamphlet and the CD-ROM with printer specification.

OWH Website

The gynecologic cancer pamphlet and fact sheets are available on the OWH Website at www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh.

Other Gynecologic Cancer Resources

For more information about screening, diagnostic tests and treatment of gynecologic cancers, and/or educational materials, newsletters, and other resource information:

American Academy of Family Physicians
(913) 906-6000
<http://www.aafp.org>

The American Cancer Society
1-800-ACS-2345 (se habla español)
<http://www.cancer.org>

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) 1-800-762-2264
<http://www.ACOG.org>

California Cancer Registry
<http://www.ccrca.org>

The Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry
1-800-OVARIAN
<http://www.ovariancancer.com>

Gynecologic Cancer Foundation
1-800-444-4441
<http://www.sgo.org/gcf/>

National Cervical Cancer Coalition
1-800-685-5531
<http://www.nccc-online.org>

National Cancer Institute, Cancer Information Service
1-800-4-CANCER (se habla español)
<http://www.cancernet.nci.nih.gov>

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC)
1-888-OVARIAN
<http://www.ovarian.org>

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
(202) 331-1332
<http://www.ovariancancer.org>

Women's Cancer Network
(312) 664-6610
<http://www.wcn.org>

For information about ovarian cancer awareness activities in California:

Catch the Wave U.S.A., contact Karen Hovde at:
khovdemsrd@msn.com
<http://www.CatchtheWaveUSA.org>

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, California Bay Area Division, contact Lois Schaefer at:
ba.ca.nocc@ovarian.org

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Central California Division, contact Margie Gatson at:
ca.bk.nocc@ovarian.org

About the Gynecologic Cancer Legislation

AB 833 (Ortiz), Chapter 754, Statutes of 1997, effective January 1, 1998, provided the statutory authority to create the Gynecologic Cancer Information Program within the Department of Health Services. Resources to meet the requirements of Section 138.4 of the Health and Safety Code were provided in a FY 1999-2000 Budget Bill, in an effort spearheaded by Senator Deborah Ortiz. Governor Gray Davis signed the budget bill in June 1999.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 833 CHAPTER 754

An act to add Sections 138.4 and 109278 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to cancer.

[Approved by Governor October 7, 1997. Filed with Secretary of State October 7, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 833, Ortiz. Gynecological cancers,

Existing law establishes the Office of Women's Health within the State Department of Health Services. The functions of the office include, among others, to communicate and disseminate information and perform a liaison function within the department and to providers of health, social, educational, and support services to women.

This bill would direct the department to place priority on providing information to consumers, patients, and health care providers relating to women's gynecological cancers. The bill would authorize the department, in consultation with certain persons, to produce or contract with others to develop the materials required by this provision, as the office deems appropriate, or collect and distribute certain available publications, to be made available to the public free of charge. The bill would authorize the department to require, where appropriate health care providers to provide or make available these materials to patients and would provide for the Medical Board of California as well other sources to distribute these materials.

The bill would require every medical care provider primarily responsible for providing to a patient an annual gynecological examination to provide that patient during the annual examination a standardized summary in layperson's language and in a language understood by the patient containing a description of the symptoms and methods for diagnosing gynecological cancers.

The people of the state of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 138.4 is added to the Health and Safety Code to read:

138.4. (a) The State Department of Health Services shall place priority on providing information to consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding women's gynecological cancers, including, signs and symptoms, risk factors, the benefits of early detection through appropriate diagnostic testing, and treatment options.

(b) The information may include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

(1) Educational and informational materials in print, audio, video, electronic, or other media.

(2) Public service announcements and advertisements.

(c) (1) The department may produce or contract with others to develop the materials described in this section as the director deems appropriate, or may survey available publications from, among other sources, the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society, and may collect and formulate a distribution plan and disseminate these publications according to the plan. These materials may be made available to the public free of charge and may include distribution through the Medical Board of California, as well as through other sources according to the distribution plan.

(2) The department may require, as it deems appropriate, health care providers to make these materials available to patients.

(d) In exercising the powers under this section, the office shall consult with appropriate health care professionals and providers, consumers, and patients, or organizations representing them.

(e) The department may appoint a Women's Gynecological Cancer Information Advisory Council which may include representation from health care professionals and providers, consumers, patients, and other appropriate interests. Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(f) The department's duties pursuant to this section are contingent upon the department receiving funds appropriated for this purpose.

(g) The department may adopt any regulations necessary and appropriate for the implementation of this section.

SECTION 2. Section 109278 is added to the Health and Safety Code to read:

109278. (a) The medical care provider primarily responsible for providing to a patient an annual gynecological examination shall provide to that patient during the annual examination a standardized summary in layperson's language

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and in a language understood by the patient containing a description of the symptoms and appropriate methods of diagnoses for gynecological cancers. Use of existing publications developed by nationally recognized cancer organizations is not precluded by this section.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “medical care provider” means a health care professional licensed pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code or pursuant to an initiative act referred to in that division providing medical care within his or her lawful scope of practice.

Budget Bill, Chapter 50, Statutes of 1999

The State Department of Health Services shall provide information to consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding women’s gynecologic cancers pursuant to Section 138.4 of the Health and Safety Code. In meeting this requirement, the department may use not more than \$150,000 of the amount appropriated in this item as well as the additional position in the Office of Women’s Health designated for this purpose, and shall seek appropriate in-kind assistance from professional organizations, non-profit agencies, the University of California system, and foundation grant funding. The department shall provide a report to the Legislature by or no later than January 1, 2000, on implementation of Chapter 754, Statutes of 1997.

Commonly Asked Questions About The Law

1. Does the law permit health care providers to use their own materials or materials produced by other cancer information agencies/organizations?

Yes, the law permits providers to use their own materials or materials produced by other organizations as long as the educational materials provide a standard summary of symptoms and methods for diagnosing gynecologic cancers. The information provided must be in a language understood by the patient (e.g. information in Chinese for a patient whose primary language is Chinese) and in layperson’s language (e.g. reading level appropriate to the patient).

2. Are providers required to give the gynecologic cancer information to each patient at the time of her annual exam every year?

Yes, the law requires medical care providers to give this information to each patient every year.

3. What agency is responsible for enforcement of the Gynecologic Cancer Information Program law?

Please address questions regarding enforcement of the gynecologic cancer law to the:

Medical Board of California
1427 Howe Avenue, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone (916) 263-1080
Fax (916) 263-2387

4. Is the California Department of Health Services (DHS) required to provide the gynecologic cancer information materials to medical care providers free of charge?

No, DHS is not required to provide the gynecologic cancer materials to providers free of charge. However, the law intends that DHS provide these materials to the public free of charge on an on-going basis if it is able to with additional funding or in-kind assistance from professional organizations, non-profit organizations, universities, and other organizations. Currently, DHS provides the educational materials free of charge through the DHS Warehouse.

Nationally, the American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 80,300 women will be diagnosed with one of six gynecologic cancers: ovarian, cervical, uterine, fallopian tubes, vaginal, and vulvar in 2001. It is estimated that there will be 38,300 new cases of uterine cancer, 23,400 cases of ovarian cancer and 12,900 of cancer of the cervix. Ovarian cancer ranks second among gynecologic cancer in the number of new cases each year and causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

In California, it is estimated that there will be 8,675 new cases and 2,615 deaths in 2001 attributable to gynecologic cancers, California Cancer Facts & Figures (2001). It is projected that these cancers will account for 13 percent of all new cases of cancer and 10 percent of the cancer deaths among California women in 2001. The California Cancer Registry figures for the five year period 1994-1998 indicates that the number of new cases of invasive gynecologic cancer was highest for uterine (17,463), followed by ovarian (12,632), and cervical (8,406). Of the six gynecologic cancers, uterine cancer has the highest incidence at 42 percent and ovarian has the highest mortality at 54 percent. Incidence rates for cancer of the vulva, vagina, and fallopian tubes are very low. According to ACS, in 2001 approximately 560 California women will be diagnosed and 115 women will die from one of these three cancers.

Latina women have the highest incidence of cervical cancer when compared to all other ethnic groups; this cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed form of gynecologic cancer among Latinas despite the availability of effective screening. Mortality due to cervical cancer is disproportionately higher among African American women compared to other ethnic groups. Non-Hispanic white women have the highest incidence rates for uterine cancer. Compared to all other groups, Asian Pacific Islanders have the lowest mortality rates from gynecologic cancers.

Effective screening tools are available only for cervical cancer, while reliable diagnostic procedures exist only for cervical and uterine cancers. The Pap test is highly effective in detecting cervical cancer and its precursors, but not for detecting the other five gynecologic cancers. Ovarian cancer is difficult to detect early because when symptoms do occur, they are often vague and may seem unrelated to the disease itself. For this reason, women are advised to know the warning signs for all gynecologic cancers and to have regular checkups that include a recto-vaginal pelvic examination and a Pap test throughout their adult lives. Additionally, when women and their health care providers are better informed about the signs, symptoms and risks of gynecologic cancer, the likelihood of early detection may increase. Detecting cancer at an early stage gives women the best chance for successful treatment. (See "Gynecologic Cancers...What Women Need to know", California Department of Health Services, Office of Women's Health publication for more information on risks, warning signs, and early detection.)

State of California

Gynecologic Cancers 1994–1998

Five-Year Incidence and Mortality and Average Age Adjusted Rates by Ethnicity

All Women

| Sites | Incidence | | | Mortality | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | New Cases | Percent* | Annual Rate** | Deaths | Percent* | Annual Rate** |
| Cervix | 8,406 | 20.4% | 9.0 | 2,289 | 18.0% | 2.5 |
| Uterus | 17,463 | 42.5% | 19.8 | 2,976 | 23.4% | 3.0 |
| Ovary | 12,632 | 30.7% | 14.0 | 6,887 | 54.0% | 7.3 |
| Vagina | 563 | 1.4% | 0.6 | 173 | 1.4% | 0.2 |
| Vulva | 1,505 | 3.7% | 1.5 | 285 | 2.2% | 0.3 |
| Other | 567 | 1.4% | 0.7 | 132 | 1.0% | 0.1 |
| Total | 41,136 | 100% | 45.6 | 12,742 | 100% | 13.4 |

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State of California

Gynecologic Cancers 1994–1998

Five-Year Incidence and Mortality and Average Age Adjusted Rates by Ethnicity, continued

Asian/Pacific Islander

| Sites | Incidence | | | Mortality | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | New Cases | Percent* | Annual Rate** | Deaths | Percent* | Annual Rate** |
| Cervix | 1,042 | 31.9% | 11.2 | 261 | 32.6% | 3.0 |
| Uterus | 1,114 | 34.1% | 12.9 | 163 | 20.3% | 1.9 |
| Ovary | 984 | 30.1% | 11.0 | 350 | 43.7% | 4.1 |
| Vagina | 35 | 1.1% | 0.4 | 10 | 1.2% | 0.1 |
| Vulva | 50 | 1.5% | 0.6 | 7 | 0.9% | 0.1 |
| Other | 41 | 1.3% | 0.5 | 10 | 1.2% | 0.1 |
| Total | 3,266 | 100% | 36.6 | 801 | 100% | 9.3 |

African American

| Sites | Incidence | | | Mortality | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | New Cases | Percent* | Annual Rate** | Deaths | Percent* | Annual Rate** |
| Cervix | 594 | 27.8% | 9.8 | 237 | 27.4% | 4.1 |
| Uterus | 802 | 37.6% | 15.6 | 257 | 29.7% | 4.8 |
| Ovary | 568 | 26.6% | 10.3 | 334 | 38.6% | 6.3 |
| Vagina | 48 | 2.2% | 0.9 | 16 | 1.8% | 0.3 |
| Vulva | 85 | 4.0% | 1.5 | 8 | 0.9% | 0.1 |
| Other | 37 | 1.7% | 0.7 | 13 | 1.5% | 0.2 |
| Total | 2,134 | 100% | 38.8 | 865 | 100% | 15.8 |

Hispanic

| Sites | Incidence | | | Mortality | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | New Cases | Percent* | Annual Rate** | Deaths | Percent* | Annual Rate** |
| Cervix | 2,808 | 35.3% | 14.1 | 580 | 33.2% | 3.5 |
| Uterus | 2,808 | 35.3% | 13.4 | 333 | 19.1% | 2.4 |
| Ovary | 1,949 | 24.5% | 11.5 | 755 | 43.2% | 5.4 |
| Vagina | 99 | 1.2% | 0.7 | 22 | 1.3% | 0.2 |
| Vulva | 193 | 2.4% | 1.4 | 40 | 2.3% | 0.3 |
| Other | 96 | 1.2% | 0.5 | 17 | 1.0% | 0.1 |
| Total | 7,953 | 100% | 41.6 | 1,747 | 100% | 11.9 |

Non-Hispanic White

| Sites | Incidence | | | Mortality | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | New Cases | Percent* | Annual Rate** | Deaths | Percent* | Annual Rate** |
| Cervix | 3,819 | 13.5% | 6.7 | 1,201 | 12.9% | 2.0 |
| Uterus | 13,383 | 47.4% | 22.2 | 2,219 | 23.8% | 3.1 |
| Ovary | 9,125 | 32.3% | 15.2 | 5,438 | 58.4% | 8.2 |
| Vagina | 364 | 1.3% | 0.6 | 125 | 1.3% | 0.2 |
| Vulva | 1,134 | 4.0% | 1.7 | 230 | 2.5% | 0.3 |
| Other | 385 | 1.4% | 0.7 | 92 | 1.0% | 0.1 |
| Total | 28,210 | 100% | 47.1 | 9,305 | 100% | 13.9 |

Source: Cancer in California 1988-1998, California DHS, Cancer Surveillance Section, December 2000

* Percent of all gynecologic cancers

** Age- adjusted rate (1970 US population) per 100,000